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SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL READOUT - NOVEMBER 7, 2007

REF: USNATO 599

Classified By: CDA Richard G. Olson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C/NF) Summary from the NAC Meeting:

-- Balkans: The NAC discussion with Ambassador Miroslav Lajcak, High Representative and EU Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, reported separately in reftel.

-- Afghanistan: The SYG reported on his November 6 phone conversation with President Karzai in which he offered Karzai whatever assistance NATO could provide in the aftermath of the suicide bombing in Baghlan that killed several Parliamentarians and civilians. The SYG said is still looking for nominations for a new Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan. NATO CHODs will focus on ISAF force requirements and ANA training at their meeting in Brussels next week. SHAPE briefed on Kabul security situation, Tora Bora, and Musa Qala, plus recent Taliban attacks on Farah district centers. Czechs reported on Iranian denial of overflight clearance on ISAF resupply.

-- Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (OAE): JFC Naples made a strong case for enhanced funding for and continued Alliance commitment to OAE, and JFC Naples Commander Admiral Ulrich delivered his farewell address.

-- Farewell Address by JFC Naples Commander Admiral Ulrich: Admiral Ulrich noted that NATO, through operations like Active Endeavor, had moved from providing traditional defense to delivering comprehensive security. He said NTM-I should continue and be expanded and gave assurances KFOR would

maintain a safe and secure environment in Kosovo, though it would need political guidance from the NAC once status is determined.

-- Darfur: No discussion.

-- Iraq: No discussion.

-- Response to Terrorism: The Turkish PermRep reported the PKK returned the captured Turkish soldiers on October 22, and Turkish Security Forces continue to try to prevent PKK terrorists from fleeing back into Iraq. Turkey, emphasizing the need for solidarity amongst NATO Allies, highlighted agreement between President Bush and PM Erdogan on the urgent need to take steps to combat the PKK.

-- AOB: In other business, five Allies (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Romania) circulated a letter on the way forward on energy security with an eye to the Bucharest Summit.

END SUMMARY.

Afghanistan

¶2. (C/NF) The SYG reminded Allies that he still had not received from nations any nominations of candidates to replace Senior Civilian Representative Daan Everts, who leaves Kabul December 2007. He stressed the importance of

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closely monitoring the situation in Pakistan for any spillover impact on ISAF nations supply routes through Pakistan, or on the Afghan-Pakistani border. He noted tongue-in-cheek that preliminary results from the force generation conference ongoing at SHAPE were "not spectacular," but said he would wait for D/SACEUR's report before passing judgment. In a phone conversation with President Karzai November 6 about that day's bomb attack on a ceremony in Baghlan that killed several Parliamentarians and civilians, he said he offered Karzai whatever assistance NATO could provide to the Afghan government in the aftermath. Many Allies expressed appreciation for the SYG's immediate press statement on November 6 condemning the attack.

¶3. (C/NF) Chairman of the Military Committee (CMC) Henault highlighted next week's CHOD's meeting at NATO HQ, noting that the continuing inability of Allies to meet ISAF's minimum military requirements (the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements, aka "CJSOR") plus the status of NATO's training and equipping support to the Afghan army would be major focuses. General Henault's successor will be chosen, as well.

¶4. (C/NF) SHAPE DCOS Ops MG Wright told the Council that an ISAF EOD team was working with Afghan authorities on forensic analysis of the November 6 Baghlan bomb scene. Addressing two questions that had been raised by Ambassador Nuland as well as other PermReps over the past few weeks, MG Wright looked at the security situation in and around Kabul, and ongoing ISAF operations in Tora Bora. On Kabul, he relayed a recent conversation from his trip to Afghanistan with the commander of RC-Capital, who predicted continued asymmetric attacks by Opposing Militant Forces (OMF) over the winter, but stated that OMF cannot launch complex, sustained attacks in or around Kabul, and pose no threat to isolate Kabul. He said that although COMISAF's main tactical effort had shifted back to RC-South on November 1, ISAF's theater task force remained in the Tora Bora region, and would stay for the foreseeable future, working with the ANA 201 Corps and ANP to target OMF leadership, and assist the local population with quick impact reconstruction projects, medical assistance, and enhanced freedom of movement. Wright also said political changes in Pakistan would have minimal impact on NATO's lines

of communication.

15. (C/NF) Looking at other operations across the theater, MG Wright said that Task Force Helmand was working to disrupt OMF movement into and out of Musa Qala in northern Helmand, and ISAF was carefully tracking the fate of Mullah Salem of the Alizai tribe in Musa Qala, whose potential defection from the Taliban there could be of major significance to ISAF efforts. Noting that OMF attacks on district centers in remote areas of Afghanistan that lack significant ISAF and ANSF presence were largely for symbolic and propaganda purposes, he stated that of the three district centers recently seized in Farah province, Delaram is now back under ANSF control, and ANSF, supported by ISAF forces, will conduct operations in the near future to displace OMF from Bakwa and Gulestan, as well.

16. (C/NF) Czech PermRep Fule briefed that on October 31, Iran had denied overflight permission to a Czech ISAF supply flight using the standard "ISF" international flight codes that ISAF flights use, on the basis of \$22,000 of unpaid

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debts from ISAF supply flights. After convincing the Iranians that the Czechs were current on all overflight fees owed to Iran, clearance was granted, but the Iranians had told the Czechs all future "ISF" coded flights would be denied clearance. Ambassador Fule stated his government was unsure as to the legitimacy of the Iranian assertions, but asked NATO military authorities to investigate. MG Wright stated that he was unaware of the Czech experience or any similar experiences, but would investigate.

17. (C/NF) The Spanish PermRep condemned the November 6 bomb attack in Baghlan, and asked for enhanced NAC discussion of what motivates these types of attacks and who could be behind them. The Canadian PermRep and UK Charge agreed with the SYG on the need to follow events in Pakistan closely, and the Canadian briefed on a recent Canadian-sponsored Afghan/Pakistan border workshop in Dubai that brought together both sides to discuss a wide range of border issues from security to commerce. Germany stated that Baghlan attack showed that "violence was spreading throughout the country," and briefed on Chancellor Merkel's November 3 trip to Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif, noting she had assured President Karzai and the Afghan government of Germany's continued, enhanced support to Afghanistan. The Bulgarian PermRep informed the NAC that his President and Defense Minister were also in Afghanistan last week, and met with Karzai. He also announced a 37,000-euro donation to NATO's Afghanistan weapons stockpile management trust fund, and 35,000-euro donation to ISAF's Post-Operations Humanitarian Relief Fund.

Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR

18. (C/NF) The SYG noted that the sixth anniversary of Operation Active Endeavor (OAE), a part of NATO's immediate response to the 9/11 tragedy, was in October. The Operation had thus far had an important impact on Mediterranean security and demonstrated Alliance solidarity in its commitment against terrorism.

19. (C/NF) Vice Admiral Roberto Cesaretti, Commander, Maritime Component Command at JFC Naples, briefed on improvements made in OAE's operational effectiveness over the past year. In the context of an upcoming Periodic Mission Review at the end of 2007 or in early 2008, Cesaretti made a case for continuation of the operation. He advocated OAE's added value to Mediterranean security, noting the achievements on the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. He said that on the strategic level, OAE demonstrates NATO's resolve against terrorism and serves as a catalyst for enhancing regional security. Participation of Russian and Ukrainian ships in OAE serves as a good example of this principle. On

the operational level, OAE has put NATO in the position as the global leader in maritime counterterrorism, maritime situational awareness, and trend analyses in maritime security. On the tactical level, he stated that OAE clearly deters terrorism, has increased Allied ability to act against terrorism, and has enabled the development of technology that paints a maritime situational awareness picture of a quality "unimaginable" when OAE was launched in 2001.

¶10. (C/NF) Cesaretti stated that in accordance with NAC direction in October 2005 and June 2006, OAE had greatly

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improved Allies' and partners' ability to see a complete picture of shipping activity in the Mediterranean and to better detect suspicious activity. Crediting Allied Command Transformation assistance, he described a system that takes unclassified maritime data, analyzes it on an unclassified

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level at NATO, fuses that analysis with classified NATO intelligence, and creates a useful tool to presenting a variety of real time meaningful displays. OAE was moving from a platform-based to a network-based operation that collects and analyses information and which will provide a far greater ability to detect suspicious maritime activity. He also hailed the strengthening of NATO's partnership throughout the region due to enhanced maritime cooperation under the OAE rubric.

¶11. (C/NF) Italy, Canada, Spain, UK, and Bulgaria all commented favorably on OAE. Canada and Bulgaria called for an examination of rules of engagement in the coming PMR, with a view toward liberalizing them, so that boarding operations could be conducted under NATO command. At present, when an OAE vessel decides to conduct a boarding operation of a suspect ship, it must revert from NATO command back to national command.

¶12. (C/NF) JFC Naples Commander Admiral Ulrich, responding to a question, urged the Council to provide OAE with the resources to continue developing the network that had improved the operation's effectiveness over the past years. He presented some stark figures) two years ago, a vessel in the Mediterranean had a one percent chance of being detected, and there was a 1 in 1000 chance that even if detected, suspicious activity could be identified. Even then, if suspicious activity were identified, chances of the vessel being stopped were close to zero due to restrictive ROE. Now, due to NATO's technological advances, there was a 75 percent chance of detection, a 25 percent chance of identifying suspicious activity, and a near 100 percent chance of intervention due to better ROE and strong regional partnerships. Most interventions were conducted by nations who are alerted by NATO that a suspicious ship was entering their waters. More money is necessary to further improve, he stressed.

Farewell Address by Admiral Ulrich

¶13. (C/NF) In his farewell address to the NAC, Admiral Ulrich said that NATO today is no longer focused on traditional "defense," but instead on providing "security" in comprehensive manner to all its citizens. He told PermReps that the comprehensive approach concept has great resonance at the operational level and that Operation Active Endeavor has moved from a traditional defensive operation to a forward leaning security operation. He said the NTM-I mission should continue and be expanded as it transitions to an approach based on mobile teams and mentoring. In the Balkans, he praised the work of NATO advisory teams on military aspects of security sector reform. On Kosovo, he was confident that KFOR could deliver its mandate to maintain a secure environment, but said KFOR would urgently need

guidance from the NAC on how to deal with the political dimensions of new situation once status is determined. He said NATO would soon need to move beyond the ongoing prudent

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planning for its post-status tasks in Kosovo if it is to meet the aggressive timelines set out for this work.

Response to Terrorism

¶14. (C/NF) The Turkish PermRep informed the NAC that the PKK had returned the eight Turkish soldiers captured on October 21, but said Turkish Security Forces continue to try to prevent PKK terrorists from fleeing back into Iraq. Turkey emphasized the need for solidarity amongst NATO Allies in the fight against terrorism and the need to fulfill commitments. He criticized "certain European countries for giving the PKK room to maneuver in their countries." He highlighted agreement between President Bush and PM Erdogan in their recent meeting on the urgent need to take steps to combat the PKK.

AOB

¶15. (C/NF) Energy Security: In other business, the Polish PermRep noted that five Allies (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Romania) circulated a letter on the way forward on energy security with an eye to the Bucharest Summit.

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